8156.g.6.

NO ABOLITION.

BRITISH MUSEUM

ΜΟΛΥΒΟΓΙΛΙΩΝ

NO ABOLITION;

OR,

AN ATTEMPT TO PROVE TO THE CONVICTION OF EVERY RATIONAL BRITISH SUBJECT,

THAT THE

ABOLITION OF THE BRITISH TRADE

WITH

AFRICA FOR NEGROES,

WOULD BE A MEASURE AS UNJUST AS IMPOLITIC,

FATAL TO THE INTERESTS OF THIS NATION,

RUINOUS TO ITS SUGAR COLONIES,

AND

MORE OR LESS PERNICIOUS IN ITS CONSEQUENCES TO EVERY DESCRIPTION OF THE PEOPLE.

IN THE COURSE OF WHICH ARE INSERTED

IMPORTANT EXTRACTS FROM THE REPORT OF THE RIGHT HONOURABLE COMMITTEE OF PRIVY COUNCIL.

LONDON:

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MDCCLXXXIX.

NO REPEAL!

NO ABOLITION, &c.

THE firſt voyages of an Engliſhman we hear of trading to the Coaſt of Africa, were thoſe of Thomas Windam, in 1551; and with three ſhips in 1552; and again in 1553.

In 1554, John Lock, with three ſhips, brought a conſiderable quantity of *gold* and *ivory* from thence.

We hear, too, of another trader, (William Towerſon), in the following years:

Queen Elizabeth, in the 30th year of her reign, erected a Company for the better carrying on the Trade, and making Diſcoveries in Africa.

In the beginning ſo the reign of her ſucceſſor, King James, the London adventurers made ſeveral attempts alſo, ſeparately, for carrying on a trade to the Coaſt of Africa.

The ſame King, in the 16th year of his reign, granted a charter, under the great ſeal of England, to Sir Robert Rich, and other citizens of London, together with ſuch other perſons as they ſhould think fit, to incorporate into one body politic, to carry on an excluſive trade to Africa. This Company having made the experiment of ſeveral voyages, other perſons,

 without

without any authority, did the ſame; upon diſcovery whereof, diſputes aroſe between them—the Company inſiſted upon the privileges of their Charter; the others on their natural right. Both parties at laſt growing weary of ſuch debates and loſſes, withdrew the ſhattered remains of their reſpective ſtocks, by which means that trade was neglected for ſome years.

In the mean time other European nations, eſpecially the Dutch, purſued their deſign of ſecuring to themſelves the trade of Africk, by friendſhip with the natives, building of forts, and ſettling of factories on the coaſts of Guinea, and by ſupplanting the Portugueſe, who were long ſettled before them. Some of our moſt intelligent merchants repreſented the ſame to King Charles I. as alſo the conſequences that might attend the ſupine neglect of that trade on the part of England. Whereupon his Majeſty did, in the ſeventh year of his reign, grant a new charter, under the great ſeal of England, to *Humphrey Slaney, Nicholas Criſp and Co.* with ſuch ample privileges, excluſions, prohibitions, and penalties, as were contained in the former charter; which laſt charter was, in 1651, confirmed and exemplified to *Rowland Wilſon and Co.* by the governing power at that time.

The Dutch and Daniſh Companies, laying hold of the opportunity of our domeſtic commotions and diviſions, increaſed their forts, factories, and ſhips of war on the coaſt of Africa, by which they defended their own trade and navigation, and obſtructed that of their neighbours; inſomuch that, beſides demoliſhing the forts and ruining the ſtock of the Engliſh Company, they took the ſhips and goods of other private Engliſh traders, to the value of 300,000l. as appeared by their petitions to Parliament after the reſtoration of King Charles II*.

A repreſentation was made ſoon after to this King, that the Britiſh plantations in America were by degrees advancing to ſuch a condition as *neceſ-*

* The Caſtle of Mina, was taken by the Dutch in the year 1637. And that of Axim, in 1643.

ſarily

farily required a greater yearly ſupply of *ſervants and labourers*, than could be well ſpared from England, without the danger of depopulating his Majeſty's native dominions. His Majeſty therefore did, for the ſupplying of thoſe plantations with negro labourers, publicly invite all his ſubjects to ſubſcribe to a new joint ſtock, for recovering and carrying on the trade to Africa; and the then deſigned ſubſcription being completed accordingly, his Majeſty did, in the year 1662*, grant a new charter to the ſubſcribers of that joint ſtock, by the name of *The Company of Royal Adventurers of England*, with all the benefits included on the ſeveral charters formerly mentioned. This patent extended over all the coaſt, from the Streights mouth to the Cape of Good Hope.

The New Company had ſcarcely put themſelves into a condition of trading, when a war breaking out with the States of Holland in 1664, the Dutch ſent orders to their Admiral *De Ruyter*, then at Gibraltar with thirteen men of war, to attack the Engliſh on the Coaſt of Guinea; which he ſo effectually performed, that in the year 1665, he deſtroyed moſt of their factories, took *Cormantyn* Caſtle, *Tocaravy* Fort, and the other places on that Coaſt; and ſeized on ſeveral ſhips and goods belonginging to the Engliſh Company, in ſo much, that their loſs thereby was computed at 200,000l.; by which they were reduced, and obliged to apply for new help.

* The Dutch having got *Cape Corſo* Caſtle into their hands, and committed many depredations, the Duke of York, who was Governor of the African Company, being informed of this, had ſent in 1661 a commiſſion to Sir Robert Holmes to make repriſals. Sir Robert proceeded with four frigates, took a ſmall fort near Cape Verde, which he called *St. James's Fort*; he diſlodged the Hollanders at the river *Gambia*, and built a new fort there. In January 1664, Sir Robert Holmes returned to the river *Gambia*, attacked and took *Fort Naſſau*, mounting twenty pieces of cannon, and *Fort Orange*, of eight pieces, both ſituated on the iſland of *Goree*. He alſo attacked and took *Cape Corſo* Caſtle. The injuries done the Engliſh were by the Dutch Weſt-India Company; the repriſals made by the Engliſh were under the charter of the African Company. The Crown did not fit out Sir R. Holmes, nor give him any commiſſion.

† Lives of the Admirals, Charles II.

Whereupon

Whereupon his Majeſty, conſidering that the ſaid trade was in great danger of being wholly loſt to the nation, and conceiving that the eſtabliſhment of a New Company, and a New Stock, would be the moſt effectual means to recover and carry on that trade, did in the year 1671, publicly invite all his ſubjects reſiding in foreign plantations, as well as here at home, to ſubſcribe what ſums they pleaſed towards carrying on the aforeſaid trade; and thereupon, many of the Nobility, Gentry, and Merchants, having, in the compaſs of nine months, ſubſcribed and compleated their deſigned Stock, his Majeſty granted a new charter in the year 1672, for one thouſand years, to thoſe new ſubſcribers, diſtinguiſhed by the denomination of the *Royal African Company of England*; with the ſame excluſions and privileges the former Company had; it being ſtipulated that out of this laſt Stock, ſatisfaction ſhould be made to the former Company for the eſtimated value of the remains of ſuch Caſtles, Forts, and Settlements, as were then in their poſſeſſion; which was done accordingly.

The trade being thus ſettled again under direction of a ſociety of perſons, who had the countenance and protection of Government at that time, they introduced and encouraged the making of ſeveral ſorts of *woollen* and other goods proper for the trade of *Guinea*, not *formerly manufactured* in *England*, and reduced the making thereof to a ſtaple and ſettled goodneſs; they exported yearly above 70,000l. worth of the ſaid woollen and other manufactures; and gave far better prices for the ſame, than what uſually are now given for the like. They furniſhed the Weſtern Plantations with a conſiderable number of Negroes at very moderate rates, and on terms ſo advantageous, that they ſometimes truſted the Planters to the value of 100,000l. and upwards, till they could conveniently pay the ſame. They imported beſides, *Elephants' teeth*, *red-wood*, and other goods, fit for being manufactured at home; ſuch quantities of *gold duſt* from the Coaſt of Africa, that they frequently coined 30, 40, or 50,000 *guineas* at a time, impreſſed with the figure of an Elephant, for a mark of diſtinction; and in effect they managed matters ſo, as that for ſeveral years ſucceſſively, that trade did not

only

only produce an annual dividend of certain profits to all the particular adventurers in the joint ſtock, beſides an increaſe of their capital, but alſo ſeveral other public and national advantages to the whole kingdom, and the Britiſh Plantations in general.

The ſucceſs of the *Royal African Company*, exciting great envy, private adventurers purſued this trade, complaining againſt the privileges of the Company, as a monopoly inconſiſtent with the nature of the Britiſh commerce, and not eſtabliſhed by Act of Parliament; and that, therefore, they would exerciſe their free right of trading to Africa, as well as the Company*.

Many repreſentations having been made, that if the trade were laid open to all ſuch perſons as had a mind to engage in it, the ſame would be more advantageous to the kingdom, that new diſcoveries would be made, the plantations be furniſhed with ſlaves in greater numbers, and at cheaper rates, than by the company alone, and much greater quantities of Engliſh manufactures be exported; the Parliament was, in the year 1697, induced to make an experiment, by paſſing an act, giving permiſſion to all Engliſh ſubjects whatſoever, as well as the company, to trade to Africa for the term of thirteen years; they paying to the company a duty of ten per cent. towards defraying the charges of their forts and caſtles for defence of that trade to the nation. This act continued in force from the 24th of June 1698, till the 24th of June 1712; in which time the charges amounted to 20,000l. per annum for maintaining the forts and caſtles; and in fourteen years to 280,000l. in the whole.

The duty paid by ſeparate traders in the ſame time amounted to 75,785l. 10s. 6½d. and that on the company's own exports for the ſame time to 36,387l. 13s. 1½d.

* In the reign of William III. the French and Dutch gave the Company immenſe oppoſition, and they ſuſtained conſiderable loſſes by the French war.

The forts, caſtles, and factories, were then in number thirteen, actually erected and maintained by the company on the Coaſts of North and South Guinea, viz. *James's* Fort in Gambia; *Sherbrow* Fort in *North* Guinea; *Dickie's Cove*; *Succundre*; *Commendo*; *Cape Corſo* Caſtle; *Fort Royal*; *Anniſham*; *Annamaboi*, *Agrah*, *Winnibah*, *Accra*, and *Whidah* in *South* Guinea. Their compliment was about 600 officers and ſoldiers, and 200 artificers; beſides labourers for keeping them in repair, and four or five veſſels conſtantly on the coaſt to attend them.

Notwithſtanding the diſcouragement of opening the trade, the Royal African Company raiſed and encreaſed their ſtock, by an additional ſum of 180,000l.

In 1707 the company petitioned the Queen to recommend their caſe to the Lords Commiſſioners for Trade and Plantations, who prepared a report thereupon. They eſtimated the value of their fortreſſes and factories only at 150,000l. in caſe Parliament had thought fit to eſtabliſh this as a foundation for a new ſubſcription; to ſettle the trade to Africa, on a conſtitution ſuitable to the nature and circumſtances of it.

Mr. St. John laid the report of the Commiſſioners for Trade and Plantations before the Houſe of Commons. A committee thereof 31ſt of March, 1711, reported, "That the trade ought to be free in a regulated compa-
"ny; that forts and ſettlements were neceſſary; that the contracts made
"with the natives ſhould be kept, and other alliances made with them
"for enlargement of the trade; that the plantations ought to be ſupplied
"with *negroes* at reaſonable rates."

In 1713 a committee of the whole Houſe came to a ſimilar reſolution. A bill paſſed to open the trade, but the ſeſſion cloſed before it paſſed the Houſe of Lords. The Queen, in her Speech in the preceding year, held this language to the Parliament, viz.

"The

" The part that we have borne in the profecution of the war, entitling us " to fome *diſtinction* in the terms of peace; I have *inſiſted* and obtained that " the *Aſſiento* Contract for furniſhing the *Spaniſh Weſt Indies* with *negroes* " ſhall be made with *us* for the term of thirty years, in the ſame manner " as it has been enjoyed by the French theſe ten years paſt *. And in anſwer to ſeveral Addreſſes, her Majeſty was pleaſed to ſay, That ſhe would give directions that the *fourth* part of the *Aſſiento* trade, reſerved to her Majeſty, might be diſpoſed of for the uſe of the public; and ſhe added in her anſwer to Parliament:

" That her Majeſty gave to the South Sea Company the Aſſiento con- " tract ſhe had obtained from the Catholic King for importing *negroes* into " the Spaniſh Weſt Indies; and her Majeſty had ſince thought it neceſſary " for their further encouragement, and for removing difficulties in carrying " on that beneficial trade, to grant them the *fourth* part in the contract " reſerved to herſelf, being of opinion, *That the encouragement of trade, will* " *beſt enable the ſubjects to diſcharge the national debt.*"

In 1730, the Company petitioned Parliament, and obtained a grant of 10,000l. to enable them to ſupport the Forts and Settlements. This ſum, and at times more, was continued yearly, excepting two or three years, till a change was made in the Company's affairs in 1751, by an Act of Parliament, by which the Company were diveſted of their charter; and after the 10th of April, 1752, they ceaſed to be a Corporation, and their Forts, Caſtles, and all other their poſſeſſions in Africa, were veſted in a New Company of Merchants; and in conſequence of the trade to Africa being by virtue of the ſaid Act, and alſo of the 23d of *King George* II. made free and open to all his Majeſty's ſubjects, the Parliament allowed this Company 10,000*l.* *per annum*, for the ſupport of the Forts and Caſtles for public ſervice.

* Parliamentary Debates, 13th Anne, 1714.

But

But on the 15th of May, 1765, an Act of the preceding Seſſion of Parliament, intituled, "An Act for veſting the Fort of *Senegal* and its Dependencies, in the Company of Merchants, trading to Africa," was repealed, and another Act, 5th Geo. II. c. 44, then paſſed, to veſt as well the ſaid Fort and its Dependencies, as all other the Britiſh Forts and Settlements upon the Coaſt of Africa, lying between the port of *Salee* and Cape *Rouge*; together with all the property, eſtate, and effects of the Company of Merchants trading to Africa, in or upon the ſaid Forts, Settlements, and their Dependencies, in his Majeſty *George* III. and for *ſecuring, extending*, and *improving* the trade to *Africa*.

The Fort of *Senegal* was, by the peace in 1783, ceded to the French King, who guarantied to the King of Great-Britain Fort *James*, and the River *Gambia*; which Fort and River are within the limits between the Port of *Salee*, and Cape *Rouge*.

It was thought to be more beneficial to the trade to reſtore theſe limits to their former owners—the Company. It was therefore enacted by ſtatute, *George III.* c. 65, that ſtatute 5th of *George III.* c. 44, ſhould be repealed. It was therefore veſted in the Company, in the ſame manner as it had been veſted in them before the ſtatute 5th of *George III.*

It appears, by the Report of the Right Hon. the Committee of Privy Council to his Majeſty, that the total ſum granted by Parliament to the African Company annually, between 1729 and 1788 incluſive, - - - £. 593,113 2 7

The ſum granted by ſtatute 25th George II. as a compenſation to the old Company, viz. - - - - 112,142 3 3

£. 705,255 5 10

1729,	—	£.	10,000	0 0
1730,	—		10,000	0 0
1742,	—		10,000	0 0
1743,	—		20,000	0 0
1745,	—		10,000	0 0

1748,	—	10,000	0	0	
1749,	—	10,000	0	0	
1750,	—	10,000	0	0	
					£. 90,000 0 0
1751,	—	10,000	0	0	
1752,	—	10,000	0	0	
1753,	—	10,000	0	0	
1754,	—	10,000	0	0	
1755,	—	16,000	0	0	
1756,	—	10,000	0	0	
1757,	—	10,000	0	0	
1758,	—	17,140	14	3	
1759,	—	10,000	0	0	
1760,	—	10,000	0	0	
					113,000 14 3
1761,	—	13,000	0	0	
1762,	—	13,000	0	0	
1763,	—	13,000	0	0	
1764,	—	20,000	0	0	
1765,	—	20,000	8	4	
1766,	—	13,000	0	0	
1767,	—	16,000	0	0	
1768,	—	13,000	0	0	
1769,	—	15,000	0	0	
1770,	—	13,000	0	0	
					149,572 8 4
1771,	—	15,000	0	0	
1772,	—	15,000	0	0	
1773,	—	13,000	0	0	
1774,	—	13,000	0	0	
1775,	—	13,000	0	0	
1776,	—	13,000	0	0	
1777,	—	13,000	0	0	
1778,	—	13,000	0	0	
1779,	—	13,000	0	0	
1780,	—	13,000	0	0	
					134,000 0 0
1781,	—	13,000	0	0	
1782,	—	15,000	0	0	
1783,	—	13,000	0	0	
1784,	—	13,000	0	0	
1785,	—	13,000	0	0	
1786,	—	13,000	0	0	

1787,	—	13,000	0 0		
1788,	—	13,000	0 0		
				106,000	0 0
				£. 593,113	2 7
This ſum granted by Statute 25th George II. as a compenſation to the old Company,				112,142	3 3
				£. 705,255	5 10

Having thus traced this important commerce from its firſt commencement, *two hundred and thirty-ſeven years ago*, to its preſent improved and extended ſtate, it may not be unacceptable to the reader, to be informed of the opinions reſpecting the Slave Trade, which were held by the two Grand Synods of *Proteſtant Divines* in *France*, and that of our highly reſpectable Society for promoting the knowledge of the Goſpel in Foreign Parts; (for which vide Appendix) and alſo to underſtand of what that improved ſtate of the African trade at preſent is? The latter will beſt appear from the following extracts, taken from the Report of the Right Honorable Committee of Privy Council, now before Parliament. The number of Negroes taken from the *Weſt* Coaſt of Africa, annually, appears to be 74,000, of which,

The Engliſh export from thence,	-	38,000
The French,	- - -	20,000
Dutch,	- - - -	4,000
Danes,	- - - -	2,000
Portugueſe,	- - -	10,000
		74,000

Obſervation. — 38,000 ſlaves, at an average of 40l. *ſterling*, amount to 1,520,000l.

Middling Negroes laſt year ſold for 45l. *ſterling*; and the beſt, in lots, for upwards of 50l. each; occaſioned by the attempt to ſtop the Engliſh trade, in favour of France and Spain.

17,591 ſlaves have been ſold per annum, to the inhabitants of the Britiſh iſlands, and retained there the laſt four years; the reſt are ſold to the Foreign Coloniſts.

The inhabitants of the Engliſh iſlands are aſcertained by the ſame Report of the Right Honorable Committee, to conſiſt of, viz.

		Whites.		Slaves.
Jamaica, in 1787,	—	23,000	—	256,000
Antigua, 1774,	—	2,590	—	37,808
Montſerrat, ditto,	—	1,300	—	10,000
Nevis, ditto,	—	1,000	—	10,000
St. Chriſtopher's, ditto,	—	1,900	—	23,460
Virgin Iſlands, ditto,	—	1,200	—	9,000
Barbadoes, 1786,	—	16,167	—	62,115
Grenada, 1785,	—	996	—	23,926
St. Vincent, 1787,	—	1,450	—	11,853
Dominica, 1788,	—	1,236	—	14,967
Bahamas, 1773,	—	2,052	—	2,241
Bermudas, 1783,	—	5,462	—	4,919
	Whites,	58,350	Blacks,	461,684

N. B. The French iſlands contain 76,408 Whites, and Blacks 489,065, per Monſ. *Neckar's* account.

The article of *guns* alone for the African trade, as appears by *Mr. Whately's* evidence before Lord Hawkeſbury, employs between 4 and 5000 perſons in *Birmingham*.

Mancheſter exports annually to Africa, to the amount of 200,000l. of which 80,000l. is to buy ſlaves, which employs 18,000 perſons. The ſame town likewiſe exports to the Weſt Indies, to the amount of 300,000l. which employs (of courſe) a much greater number.

ACCOUNTS

ACCOUNTS LAID BEFORE PARLIAMENT.

Value of Britiſh manufacture and produce exported from Great Britain to the Britiſh Sugar Colonies, from Chriſtmas 1787 till Chriſtmas 1788, £. 1,467,752 15 8

Value of foreign produce and manufacture (chiefly Eaſt-India) exported in the ſame time, 220,923 14 2

£. 1,688,676 9 10

Number of Veſſels, Tonnage, and Men, entered and cleared in the Sugar Colonies in the above time.

INWARDS.			*OUTWARDS.*		
Veſſels.	Tons.	Seamen.	Veſſels.	Tons.	Seamen.
2,582	284,966	22,294	2,520	298,774	25,618

The above was ſigned by the Inſpector General.

Number of Ships and Veſſels entered *Inwards* and cleared *Outwards*, for the year ending 5th January 1789, was the ſame as that contained in the preceding ſtatement.

Export Trade from *Great Britain* to *Africa*.

Years.	Ships.	Tons.	Britiſh Manufacture.	Foreign Goods.	Total.
1701	104		£. 83,280 14 6	£. 50,673 7 5	£. 133,954 1 1½
1760	138	15,647	243,542 18 9	102,005 1 4	345,548 0 1
1770	156	16,211	347,252 14 8	223,750 12 1	571,003 6 9
1786	146	21,483	583,052 12 7	305,688 10 3	888,738 2 10
1787	137	22,263	401,593 15 8	266,661 18 8	666,255 14 4

N. B. Of the foreign goods exported in 1786, £. 176,076 8 5 was *Eaſt India* manufacture. Of that of 1787, £186,258 16 9 was Eaſt India ditto.

From

From No. VI. Part IV.

Export Trade to Britiſh *Weſt-Indies.*

Export from Great-Britain in 1787, from the Inſpector General's Accounts.

Ships.	Tons.	Britiſh Manufacture.	India Goods.	Foreign ditto.	Total.
527	124,454	£. 1,441,048 8 4	£. 23,570 8 11	£. 174,084 16 11	£. 1,638,703 13 10

From No. VII. Part IV.

Import Trade from the Britiſh *Weſt-Indies* into *Great-Britain.*

Years.	Ships.	Tons.	Value.	Total of Duties.
1785	648	138,984	£. 4,440,105 2 3	£. 1,791,399 4 2
1786	579	114,271	3,467,237 15 3	1,423,739 18 9
1787	573	131,934	3,749,447 17 4	1,614,689 8 8½

No. IX. Part IV.

Imported from Ditto into *Ireland.*

1787	58	7,288	£. 88,869 18 4	£. 57,396 0 6

Obſervation.—Total of duties in Great Britain and Ireland £. 1,672,085 9 2

Account of Duties collected on Articles from Africa and the Weſt-Indies.

		Duties from Africa.	Duties from the Weſt-Indies.	Total of Duties.
1785	—	£. 7,863 8 5½	£. 1,791,399 4 2	£. 1,799,262 12 7½
1786	—	9,032 2 8	1,423,739 18 9	1,432,772 1 5
1787	—	12,453 4 10½	1,614,689 8 8	1,627,142 13 7½

Supplement to Account, No. X. Part IV.

Account of *Imports* from the *Weſt-Indies* to all Parts, from the 5th of *January*, 1787, to the 5th of *January*, 1788.

Veſſels.	Tons.	Seamen.	Value of Products.
1,815	242,721	21,114	£. 5,389,054 17 7

Obſervations.—The foregoing ſtatements do not include the amount of the Slave Trade from the Coaſt of *Africa* to the *Weſt Indies*, but only the *Exports* from the *Weſt Indies*. The value of the 38,000 ſlaves being a diſtinct object, we muſt add that to the value of the Exports from the *Weſt Indies*, if we mean to make an eſtimate of both thoſe trades together, and include the Exports from *Great Britain* to *Africa* and the *Weſt Indies*.

Exports from *Great Britain* to *Africa*, and alſo to the *Britiſh Weſt Indies*		£. 2,365,959 4 2
Imports from the *Britiſh Weſt Indies to all parts*, 1787	—	5,389,054 17 7
Amount of 38,000 ſlaves from *Africa* to the *Weſt Indies*	—	1,520,000 0 0
Total		£. 10,776,300 11 9
		£ 9,216,014: 5: 9 .

Account No. X. Part IV.

General Abſtract of *Ships* that have cleared *Out*, and entered *Inwards*, between *Great-Britain* and *Africa*, and the *Britiſh Weſt-Indies*.

EXPORTS.

Years.	Ships to Africa.	Tonnage.	Ships to W. Indies.	Tonnage.	Value to Africa.	Value to W. Indies.	Total Value to both Africa and the Weſt-Indies.
					£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.
1786	146	21,483	481	103,772	888,738 2 10	1,267,304 7 8	2,156,042 10 6
1787	137	22,263	527	124,454	668,255 14 4	1,638,703 13 10	2,306,959 8 2

IMPORTS.

IMPORTS.

Years.	Ships to Africa.	Tonnage.	Ships to W. Indies.	Tonnage.	Value to Africa.	Value from W. Indies.	Total Value from both Africa and the West-Indies.
					£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.
1786	42	5,598	570	114,271	117,683 1 1	3,467,237 15 3	3,584,920 16 4
1787	46	6,630	573	131,934	117,817 16 10	3,749,447 17 4	3,867,265 14 2
1785	40	7,245	648	138,984	48,535 12 0	4,440,105 2 3	4,488,640 14 3

An Eſtimate of the preſent Value of Britiſh property in the Sugar Colonies, as delivered by the *Weſt India* Planters and Merchants.

Value of 450,000 negroes, being the total amount of all in the *Britiſh Sugar Colonies*, at 50£. ſterling per head	22,500,000
Value of Lands, Buildings, Utenſils, Cattle, Mules, &c. double the value of the Negroes	45,000,000
Value of the Houſes, &c. in the Town, the trading and coaſting Veſſels, and their Negro crews, belonging to the iſlands	2,500,000
Total £.	70,000,000

1ſt. The negroes were eſtimated at 50l. ſterling each, becauſe negroes in the Weſt Indies have been commonly ſold in parcels at that ſum even before 5l. per head had been added to the price, in conſequence of the *regulating act* of laſt year.

2d. The lands, and perſonal property, were eſtimated at double the value of the negroes, becauſe this has always been the common mode of ſuch valuations, and is the beſt *general rule* in the colonies.

3d. The houſes, &c. in the towns, were eſtimated as above, becauſe it was known certainly, that the houſes in the town of *Kingſton*, and *Spaniſh-Town*, in *Jamaica*, are alone worth 1,428,521l. ſterling.

The

The Committee of the Right Honourable the Privy Council having directed Mr. Chalmers their firſt clerk, to prepare eſtimates of ſlaves and other property in the *Weſt Indies* (in No. XVII.) the ſlaves are all valued at 40l. ſterling, except thoſe of Bermudas, being 4919, at 45l. the whole 461,684, amounting to 18,491,955l.

No. XVIII.

Mr. Chalmers' *Second Eſtimate* is at the ſame rate of 40l. per head for every negroe, and 5l. per acre for every patented acre in each iſland; with an allowance for the erections; amounting in the whole to 36,810,305l.

N.B. This eſtimate is independent of the value of crops now growing upon thoſe iſlands.

It has been thought proper, becauſe it exhibits the ſubject in another light, to eſtimate the property in the Britiſh Weſt Indies, in the following manner: the mercantile value of the produce exported from the iſlands in the year 1787, was 5,389,054l. 17s. 7d. which, at *twelve years purchaſe*, amounts to 664,663,658l.

No.

No. XIX. and XX.

Contains an Account of Imports from the *Foreign Weſt-Indies*, from 1763 to 1787, viz.

Imports and *Exports* from *Foreign Weſt-Indies*.

	VALUE OF IMPORTS.	VALUE OF EXPORTS.		
Years.		British Manufacture.	Foreign Goods.	Total Export.
1763	£. 1,014,249 16 1	£. 23,983 6 0	£. 7,419 1 0	£. 31,402 7 0
1764	52,055 5 1	6,567 3 6	408 1 9	6,975 5 3
1765	80,573 5 6	4,901 0 0	560 7 6	5,461 7 6
1766	14,009 8 4	3,640 1 8	1,353 6 5	4,993 11 6
1767	30,137 11 6	1,684 1 8	7,093 9 11	8,777 11 7
1768	12,403 4 4	5,387 4 4		5,387 4 4
1769	18,210 1 3	2,514 11 2	294 13 8	2,809 4 10
1770	24,187 3 6	1,055 4 10	19,137 5 2	20,192 10 0
1771	7,164 6 2			
1772	33,100 3 0			
1773	12,437 7 9	1,519 17 9		1,519 17 9
1774	729 7 8			
1775	5,983 11 3	1,141 2 7		1,141 2 7
1776	19,254 12 5	3,662 2 0	787 18 9	4,450 0 9
1777	10,357 18 8	720 10 6		720 10 6
1778	2,498 3 8	1,453 10 0		1,453 10 0
1779	20,653 8 6	26,377 5 6	2,590 19 5	28,968 4 11
1780	144,889 12 4	148,419 0 9	25,104 8 11	173,523 9 8
1781	136,736 0 4	102,783 19 6	17,798 0 1	120,581 19 7
1782	10,313 2 0	315,576 10 0	48,201 14 6	363,778 4 6
1783	189,621 12 11	92,241 18 11	9,758 11 11	102,000 10 10
1784	78,667 17 4	12,926 2 9		12,926 2 9
1785	62,578 13 6	644 13 0	8 12 8	653 5 8
1786	16,787 8 5	8,581 15 6	192 7 0	8,774 2 6
1787	8,640 0 5	4,338 5 4	337 2 0	4,675 7 4

N. B. The great importation in 1763 was occaſioned by our poſſeſſion of ſeveral *French* and *Spaniſh ſettlements*, particularly the *Havannah*; and our being allowed to *import* Britiſh property by *treaty*. The ſame cauſe operated in 1764 and 1765.

Part IV. No. XV. Supplement.

POPULATION,

JAMAICA.

Governor *Beeſton* ſtated, in 1698, 7365 whites, 40,000 ſlaves.

Various endeavours to procure white people, but without ſucceſs, in the mean time imported 44,376 negroes, from June 1698, and June 1708; being 4,437 annually, though many of them were exported.

The Governor in 1727 repreſented that there had been little increaſe of people.

	Whites.	Slaves.
Governor Hunter's liſt in 1730, was		74,525
Governor Trelawny, in 1741,	10,000	100,000

No trace then remained of two regiments ſent there in 1731, and ſoon after diſbanded.

Imported from July 1, 1739, to July 1, 1749, -	69,140
Exported — — — — —	14,677
Negroes ſold to the planters,	54,463

A State laid before the Houſe of Commons in 1753, ſhewed, that ſeveral Acts of Aſſembly had been paſſed to procure white people, and this had coſt the iſland 17,300l. 15s. 4d. ſince 1739.

Imported from 1702, till 1752, 307,744 negroes.

Imported from 1752 till 1754. 15601
Exported — — — 2.936
Remained — 10,265

The

The Governor thought, though the imports of the three laſt years were 15,290, it was ſhort of what the planters and Spaniſh contractors required.

	Whites.	Slaves.
Governor Knowles ſtated in 1755,	12,000	130,000
Governor Keith ſtated, with preciſion, in 1774,	12,737	192,787
Mr. Agent Fuller ſtated, in 1787	23,000	255,780
Lieutenant Governor Clark, in December 1787,		256,000

" Obſervations on the above."

In 1741 — 100,000 Slaves.
From July 1, 1739, till July 1, 1749, ſold to the planters, 54,463
And from 1752 to 1754 ditto 13,265 is 64,728

164,728
Alive in 1755 130,000

Diminiſhed in fourteen years 34,728 is at the rate of near 2500 per annum, and is about 1 ½ per cent per annum.

Part IV. Supplement, No. XV.

POPULATION.

No. II. LEEWARD ISLANDS.

In 1724,	Whites.	Negroes.
In Antigua	5,200	19,800
St. Kitts	4,000	11,500
Nevis	1,100	6,000
Montſerrat	1000	4400
Anguilla	360	900

	Whites.	Negroes.
In 1724,	22,420	44,030
1729,	10,626	48,536 "
1734,		54,249 "
1756,	9,959	76,673
1774,	7,990	90,270
In 1774,	[*This account ends here.*	"

Spaniſh

Spaniſh Town	650	306
Tortola	420	780
	12,420	44,030

	Whites.	Negroes.
Antigua,	2,590	37,808
Montſerrat,	1,300	10,000
Nevis,	1,000	10,000
St. Kitts	1,900	23,462
Virgin Iſlands,	1,200	9,000
	7,990	90,270

Obſervation.

Extract from Governor Hart's account 1724, Antigua contained 5,200 Whites 19,800 Negroes

Imported in Antigua

In 1725,	1,525 Negroes	Imported in 1725, and up to 1729 incluſive	9,564 Ditto
1726,	1,645		
1727,	2,183	Total	29,364
1728,	1,365	Alive in 1734 —	24,408
1729,	2,846		4,956 Deficient
	9,564		

9,564 makes an average of 1912 per annum. Allowing the same rate of importation for the years 1730, 1731, 1732, 1733, adds 5,236

This account ends here.

Though, including all natural increaſe, the loſs is, (at leaſt) in ten years 10,192

By the ſame accounts Nevis diminiſhed between 1724 and 1729 676

The accounts don't ſhew the imports into the other iſlands, therefore the loſſes in them each year cannot from them be aſcertained.

" The Governor, in 1734, repreſented that thoſe iſlands, and alſo *Bar-*
" *badoes*, ſuffered greatly in population by emigration to the Dutch and
" Daniſh iſlands.

" The Governor, in 1756, repreſented that the whites had decreaſed
" ſince the laſt accounts owing to a malignant fever in 1755. That the ne-
" groes increaſed, *from the great importations.*

" *Sir Ralph Payne*, in 1774, repreſented, that the inhabitants of the Lee-
" ward Iſlands were exceedingly decreaſed during the laſt ten years; and
" that

" that emigration to the ceded iſlands, and *the decay of trade*, is the only " cauſe of this. The negroes too are decreaſed in ſome of the Leeward " Iſlands, owing to the *mortality exceeding the births*, and to the high price, " which is double to what it was thirty years ago."

Obſervations, viz.—The loſs by emigration was greateſt between the years 1724 and 1756, being then 2451. The richeſt lands were given *gratis* by the *Dutch* at *Demerara* and *Iſaque Cape*, and by the *Danes* at *Santa Croix*. The King of *Denmark* encouraged the ſettlers, and ſupported them with loans of money, on intereſt, in proportion to their undertakings.

The loſs, ſince 1756, is 1960 whites, in all 4430; being more than one-third of the whole white inhabitants.

The loſs in the ceded iſlands, of white inhabitants, has alſo been great, as will appear in its proper place, and owing to the interruption of *American trade*, in ſmall American veſſels under 90 tons. It cannot fail therefore of ſtriking the reader's notice, that the mortality of the white inhabitants in the Britiſh ſugar iſlands, has far exceeded that of the negroes.

Part IV. Supplement to No. XV.

POPULATION.

No. VI. DOMINICA.

An Account of the Inhabitants.

Years.	Whites.	Free Negroes.	Slaves.		Imported in Dominica.	
1763	1,718	300	5,872	—	1767	2,085
1766	2,020		8,497	—	1768	2,323
1773	3,350	750	18,753	—	1769	3,123

Years.	Whites.	Free Negroes.	Slaves.
1780	1,066	544	12,713
1788	1,236	445	14,967

Viz. men negroes,	5,929
Women ditto,	4,767
Male children, under 12 years,	2,187
Female children, ditto	2,084
	14,967

Imported to Dominica.	
1770	2,584
1771	3,179
1772	3,895
1773	2,005
	19,194

In 1773 Lieutenant Governor Stuart remarked, that 6,000 Negroes were annually neceſſary.

In 1780, 1,066 whites, viz.

527	males,
276	females,
263	children,
1,066	

The returns for 1788 are from Governor Orde: it don't appear from what documents. For his further returns of negroes imported and exported, vide next page.

White Inhabitants.		Free Negroes.	
577	males,	153	males,
285	females,	209	females,
193	male children,	83	children, under 12 years,
181	female ditto,		
1,236		445	

Obſervations.

Obſervations. — Dominica had in 1766, ſlaves, - 8497
Imported in 7 years, above - - 19194

27691

In 1773, alive there, - - - 18753

Diminution in ſeven years - - 8938

Hence appears 1277 was loſt per annum. That number imported, would have kept up the ſtock of 8497, without extending the ſettlement; and with that ſtock, an importation of 2742 per annum, added to the natural encreaſe, enlarged the ſtock in 7 years to 18,753 from 8,497.

Dominica had in 1773, whites, - 3350
In 1788, - - - 1236

Diminiſhed - - - - 2114
In fifteen years.

No. IV. Part IV.

IMPORT AND EXPORT OF NEGROES.

From Accounts furniſhed by the Inſpector General.

		Imported Negroes.	Exported.	Retained annually in the Iſlands.
1784	Antigua,	1,750	107	
	Dominica,	5,200	13	
	Grenada,	1,881	31	
	Jamaica,	15,468	8,465	
	St. Kitt's,	785	247	
				Montſerrat,

		Imported Negroes,	Exported.	Retained annually in the Islands.
	Montserrat,			
	Nevis,	2,126		
	St. Vincent,	1,340	400	
	Total	28,550	5,263	23,287
1785	Antigua,	306	63	
	Barbadoes	149		
	Dominica	6,254	117	
	Grenada,	2,531	90	
	Jamaica,	11,046	4,589	
	St. Kitts,	78	68	
	Montserrat and Nevis,			
	St. Vincent,	1,240	91	
		21,598	5,018	16,580
1786	Antigua,	462	126	
	Barbadoes,	606	181	
	Dominica,	8,407	189	
	Grenada,	2,005		
	Jamaica,	5,645	3,643	
	St. Kitts,	675	128	
	Montserrat and Nevis,			
	St. Vincent,	1,360	50	
		19,160	4,317	14,843
1787	Antigua,	562	102	
	Barbadoes,	713	85	
	Dominica,	5,709	2,018	
	Grenada,	3,713	536	
	Jamaica,	5,682	1,780	
	St. Kitts	1,095	185	
	St. Vincent,	3,361	660	
	Nevis,	45		
	Tortola,	143		
		21,023	5,366	15,657

Thus

Thus far from the above authority.

Observations.—That the total of the four years is, 70,367

The average each year for the Engliſh iſlands is, 17,591¼

A ſupply wanted.

By the above account Dominica in

	Imported.	Exported.
1784	5,200	13
1785	6,254	117
1786	8,407	189
1787	5,709	2,018
Total in 4 years	25,570	2,337 Total exported
	2,337	
In 4 years	23,243 remains in Dominica,	
Which is	5,810 per ann. and per Gov.	

Orde's, it is 2,784 per ditto added, yet the number diminiſhes; for by the ſame report,

In 1773, Dominica had 18,753 Negroes, and
In 1788, only 14,967

Diminiſhed 3,786 in that time.

11,772 { retained in five years above.

Ditto ſince 1773, 15,558 loſt, excluſive of what was added prior to the laſt five years, which ſhews, that in much leſs than fifteen years, the whole ſtock of negroes now living, would be loſt if no importation took place,

By Gov. Orde's return, Vide Population, Part IV. above.

	Imported.	Exported.
1784	4,998	1,925
1785	6,254	3,328
1786	8,407	5,927
1787	5,709	2,852
Total	25,368	14,032
	14,032	
In four years	11,336 remains in Dominica,	
1788	2,185	1,749
Above total	25,368	
	15,781	
In five years	27,553	
Deduct	15,781	
	11,772 remains in 5 years,	

It reſts with the reader, to depend on the Inſpector General's, or the Governor's account, ſince they ſo widely differ from each other. The diminution of 15,558, is at the rate of 1034 per annum, excluſive of the encreaſe of infants, of whom the Governor reports that the births exceed the deaths by 145, *fewer die than are born*, per annum. He ſays, (vide Population), that at " an average for five years, from March 1783, to March 1788,

" Born, - - 6748
" Died, - - 6020

" 728 encreaſe, is 145 per annum." How few of the 145 infants will reach the age of maturity? Very few. The whole number in the iſland, in 1788, includes any infants that ſurvived; yet by the Inſpector's account, the purchaſe of 5810 per annum, for thoſe four years, fell far ſhort of keeping up the number of negroes. But when it is conſidered, that nine of the fifteen years, Dominica was under Britiſh government, when many negroes muſt have been bought, that are not included in the 15558, it ſhews that Lieutenant Governor Stuart's remark on the Dominica report, was juſt — that 6000 annually were neceſſary. This coincides with an obſervation of Governor Crew, in Barbadoes, in 1708, that it annually required 3640, or about 7 per cent. to keep up the ſtock.

Barbadoes had in 1710, 52337 negroes,
In 1712, - - 41970 ditto. } (vide Report before Parliament.)

11367 loſs in two years; ſickly ones it is ſuppoſed.

Governor Trelawny, of Jamaica, ſtated 1741, the militia 4000, beſides 250 free negroes. He ſaid two regiments had been ſent thither in 1731, and diſbanded; but that not a trace remained in 1741.

Part IV. Supplement, No. XV.

POPULATION.

No. IV. GRENADES.

	Whites.	Negroes.
1763	1,225	12,000
1771	1,661	26,211
1777	1,324	35,118
1783	996	24,666
1785 in Jan.		23,926

Observations.

Negroes in 1777	-	35,118
in 1785	-	23,926
Diminiſhed in eight years, moſtly under the French Government	}	11,192
Imported in 1784	-	1,688
Loſt in eight years, excluſive of what may have been imported between 1777, and the time the iſland was taken in 1780. None were imported afterwards till reſtored.	- -	12,880

From Inſpector General's Account.

	Imported.	Exported.
1784	1,881	312
1785	2,531	90
1786	2,005	
1787	3,713	536
Total	10,130	657
	657	
Remain	10,473 in Grenada	

Accurate Statement from Grenades.

1784	imported	1,688
1785	———	3,012
1786	———	2,253
1787	———	3,693
		10,646 in Grenada.

Obſervation.—Both nearly ſeem accurate.

The above diminution of ſlaves, under ſimilar circumſtances to thoſe of Dominica, ſhews, beyond contradiction, how rapidly the ceded iſlands would become depopulated if deprived of conſtant ſupplies from Africa. The diminution of whites is alſo great, for in 1777 1324

in 1785 996

328 loſt in eight years.

Obſervation.—The 46th Regiment in 1773, 390 loſt 86; and in 1774, 76, is 162 in two years.

Return

Return of Troops ſent to the Weſt-Indies from 1764 to 1774, and ſince the Peace in 1783, ſhewing the Number in each Corps that died there.

	Regiments.		DIED First Year.	Second do.
1764	32d Weſt-Indies,	443		
——	36th Jamaica,	428	63	39
	62d Weſt-Indies,	423		
	66th Jamaica,	423	106	35
——	68th Weſt-Indies,	423	76	38 in 7 months,
	70th Grenada,	423	73	8 in 8 months,
1772	6th St. Vincent's,	390	52	55
	50th Jamaica,	390	62	32
——	60th America, 1ſt Bat.	390	37	45
	Ditto, 2d ditto,	390	19	40
1773	48th Grenada,	390	86	76
1785	66th St. Vincent's,	358	16	13
	67th Antigua,	294	8	69
1786	10th Jamaica,	353	20	3
	45th Grenada,	312	43	9 in 3 months.

N. B. The returns of the 32d and 62d are miſſing.

The 10th and 45th regiments had not been a year and half out.

Obſervation.—The mortality in the 32d and 62d was very great, and the return ſuppoſed to be miſſing from that cauſe.

Thoſe now in St. Vincent's are on a high mountain, being a healthy ſituation.

Obſervations.

Obſervations. — By the preceding ſtatements reſpecting population, is clearly proved from the authentic documents therein mentioned, the great decreaſe of negroes in all the Britiſh iſlands, probably from the importation of two males for every female, and that it evidently requires the annual ſupply of 17,591 to keep up their preſent number, and the preſent condition of ſettlement.

To extend cultivation to the vaſt tracts of woodland ſtill remaining in Jamaica, Grenada, Dominica, and St. Vincent, requires every poſſible encouragement that can be given to the planters, and to the ſlave trade. The iſlands of Dominica, St. Vincent, and Tobago, ſold for 612,000l. many millions have been expended on them. The iſland of Dominica contains 186,436 acres, of which the Commiſſioners appointed by his Majeſty, diſpoſed of upwards of 100,000, and Governor Orde, a conſiderable quantity, on terms of ſale and cultivation; to clear and cultivate, at the rate of five acres of every hundred acres every year, till one half the whole cultivable land is cleared, *under a penalty of 5l. ſterling per acre, for every acre deficient.*

Above one half the purchaſers being crippled by the payment to his Majeſty of great ſums as purchaſe money for the lands, and injured by ſix years captivity, hurricanes, peculiar diſcouragements on the part of government, and various other calamities, have been totally ruined; and thoſe that ſurvive and remain, are much reduced and impeded in the progreſs of clearing the land by thoſe cauſes. They poſſeſs at preſent but 14,967 ſlaves, of which about 10,000 only are capable of labour, which are far from ſufficient for the neceſſary work, even on the ſmall quantity of land that is cleared, and in a ſtate of culture.

To enable them to perform the *conditions of the ſale*, one *negro for each* acre would be inſufficient, therefore upwards of 90,000 are wanted for that purpoſe, beſides a conſiderable annual ſupply to keep up the preſent

ſent number. The Herculean labour of cutting down immenſe woods, requiring the moſt able-bodied people, obliged the ſetlers to buy ſuch; and it being upwards of twenty years ago, they are on the decline and will ſoon be paſt labour, and muſt be replaced progreſſively as the planters' ability will admit of it.

The ſmall offspring of negroes riſe in very ſlow ſucceſſion, incapable for many years of any hard work; of courſe, without ſuch ſupply, the intermediate crops, while the children are maturing, would periſh. No progreſs could be made in clearing more land. Few of the children in this general decline, would reach maturity, and the eſtates would ſoon return to a deſart condition.

St. Vincent contains 89,000 acres, of which ſuppoſe only 75,000 cultivated, there being only 11,853 negroes upon it, and but about 7000 of them capable of labour, it would require upwards of 50,000 more to clear and cultivate the land, excluſive of an annual ſupply to keep up the preſent number.

The ſixth of his preſent Majeſty, for "*Securing*, *extending*, and *improving* "the trade to Africa", paſſed the ſame year, the ſale of the ceded iſlands, commenced, in co-operation with his Majeſty's proclamation. The latter being held as a *magna charta*, deemed by the ſettlers as ſacred as that of *King John*.

This the purchaſers conſider as a moſt ſolemn and irrefragable compact, equally binding his Majeſty, Parliament in a diſtinct capacity, and themſelves. The inhabitants of theſe iſlands are Britiſh ſubjects; as ſuch, they demand juſtice, and hope not to be made a ſacrifice to the *mania* of the time. They at leaſt expect protection and ſupport, and the benefit of a ſupply of negroes, a free trade to and from Africa, the ſame as was held forth to them at the time, and ſince the ſale of lands; or that if any alteration

teration is made to their prejudice, the moſt ample compenſation may be rendered by the repayment of the purchaſe money; and all expences heretofore incurred in ſettling their eſtates, after which they may be diſpoſed of, as the wiſdom of Parliament may direct.

The Britiſh inhabitants of thoſe iſlands are not in an enviable ſtate, conſidering the temper and ſuperior numbers of the *Charib* Indians in *St. Vincent*, and alſo the peculiar ſituation of *Dominica* *; which being placed directly between two very important and very powerful *French* colonies; will not fail to become an immediate object of invaſion, whenſoever hoſtilities between the two nations ſhall again break out. In which caſe all the horrors from whence that colony has but juſt emerged, will again be renewed; and that ruin from which it has ſcarcely eſcaped, be rendered certain from the very wretched and impoveriſhed ſtate which ſeems, even now, under the reſtoration of Britiſh government to be allotted to it.

The exorbitancy of fees, on grants of ſmall parcels of land to poor ſettlers, operates as a total prohibition to their introduction. The ſame cauſe precludes the intercourſe of ſmall veſſels from the other iſlands to theſe.

This is not a time, however, to hint at reform in thoſe reſpects, when a *pretended humanity* is clamoured in oppoſition to juſtice, and to the voice of ancient charters; for the abrogation of protecting laws, and the inverſion of the old good enriching policy of this nation, when the foſtering care is changed to the diſſemination of incendiaries amongſt our iſlands, to excite the ſervants to deſtroy their maſters.

* The inhabitants are moſtly all French; and *their diſcipline kept excellently well up* by the Governor.

It is humanity with a vengeance, to cut off from the remaining colonies, the means of their exiſtence; to doom to ruin 58,000 of our fellow-ſubjects; and to hazard the loſs of ſhips, ſeamen, income, and revenue, whoſe amount and value to Great Britain, almoſt ſurpaſs the powers of computation.

Admirable *humanity!* — to violate all compact with, and wreſt from them their birth rights. To coerce; to denounce the terrible thunder of Britain; to do what? to cruſh its benefactors. The brave veterans of the Britiſh navy could never tarniſh their well-earned honours, by the diſgraceful office to be aſſigned them, of centinels to intercept ſupplies from the iſlands, and ſtarve their honeſt induſtrious countrymen.

There can be no doubt, but that the wretches whom a pretended *humanity* would leave to be deſtroyed on the African Coaſt, will be taken care of by our ancient competitors the *French* and *Dutch*. But the fate of thoſe now exiſting in the iſland, is more doubtful. — They will diminiſh in number. — The work of many, will become too heavy for a few. — Their diſcontent will increaſe in proportion, until ſome fatal cataſtrophe ſhall terminate the ſcene.

Extract of Inſtructions from the Council and Aſſemby of Antigua, to their Agents in London.

" The Arican trade has hitherto been carried on under ſanction of Par-
" liament; and upon the faith of its continuance, and upon the certainty
" of the ſupply of ſlaves, many millions have been expended in the ſettle-
" ment of ſugar plantations, which, we preſume, have in ſome degree
" contributed to the encreaſe of the ſhipping, and revenue of this country.
" If it is now thought proper, from motives of refined humanity, to paſs a
" law for the abolition of the Slave Trade, and thereby involve the ſugar
" colonies

" colonies in one common ruin; and if neither the evils which will accrue
" to the inhabitants of the Weſt India iſlands, nor the influence which
" they may have on navigation and the revenue of Great Britain, are
" thought of ſufficient conſequence to counteract the efforts of a miſtaken
" tenderneſs for the negroes, we deſire that you will not fail to place in
" the ſtrongeſt point of view before Parliament, the very great injuſtice
" which we ſhall ſuffer by ſo material an alteration in the original terms
" on which ſo great a property has been veſted in diſtant parts of the em-
" pire; expoſed to various calamities, and under peculiar diſadvantages;
" producing at the moſt, not more than 6 per cent. on the capital. And if
" we are doomed to be the victims of popular clamour, we deſire that you
" will, on our parts, appeal to the juſtice of Parliament, and ſubmit whe-
" ther we are not entitled to be paid a reaſonable value for our property,
" out of the national fund? The property may afterwards be diſpoſed
" of, upon ſuch new terms as the wiſdom of Parliament may think proper."

Extract from Part 1ſt. Remarks by Col. Henderſon.

" His Majeſty, Charles II. by proclamation for encouraging planters in
" Jamaica, and the Weſt Indies, given at Whitehall, the 14th of December,
" in the 13th year of his reign, did publiſh and declare, " That all chil-
" dren of his Majeſty's born ſubjects in England, to be born in Jamaica,
" ſhall, from their reſpective births, be reputed to be, and ſhall be free
" denifons of England; and ſhall have the ſame privileges to all intents and
" purpoſes, as his Majeſty's free-born ſubjects of England."

" By the 5th of George II. c. 7. negroes are declared aſſets and inheri-
" tance in like manner, as real eſtates are by the laws of England, but ſub-
" jected to the payment of debts only as perſonality; and therefore, to
" deprive the planter of his negro, or even of one hour's labour of him, for
" any purpoſe whatever, without his conſent, or a valuable conſideration,
" would be at once reverſing all order, breaking all unity, unframing

" government,

" government, and ſapping the very foundations of the conſtitution of this " country."

The above inſerted in the Report of the Right Hon. Committee of Privy Council to his Majeſty.

Extracted from the Report of the Committee of the Houſe of Aſſembly of Jamaica.

They obſerve that hurricanes in 1780, 1781, 1784, 1785, ſpread deſolation throughout the iſland. Thoſe in 1780 and 1781, being in time of war, foreign ſupplies could not be obtained, and a famine enſued that deſtroyed many thouſand negroes.

That after the ſtorm of July 30, 1784, the Lieutenant Governor with the advice of the Council, at the requeſt of the Aſſembly, had permitted the importation of neceſſaries for four months, and afterwards prolonged it to the firſt of Janu[illegible], but the notices and time was too ſhort to admit of much relief to the inhabitants. At the ſame time the Lieutenant Governor informed the Houſe of Aſſembly, " That he was not at liberty to " deviate any longer from the regulation that had been eſtabliſhed in Great " Britain.

" From the 31ſt of January, 1785, therefore, the ports were ſhut, and " the ſufferings of the poor negroes in conſequence thereof, for ſome " months afterwards, were extreme; providentially the ſeaſon became " more favourable about May, and conſiderable quantities of corn and " ground proviſions were gathered in by the month of Auguſt, when " the fourth ſtorm happened. When the Lieutenant Governor ſhut " the ports againſt the exportation of any of our proviſions to the French " and Spaniſh iſlands, which were ſuppoſed to have ſuffered more than " ourſelves; but the productions of the country were ſoon exhauſted,

" and

" and the uſual attendants of ſcanty and unwholeſome diet, dropſies,
" and epidemic dyſenteries, were dreadfully prevalent in the ſpring and
" ſummer of 1786, and proved fatal to great numbers of negroes in all
" parts of the country."

" On the 20th of October, in that year, happened the fifth dreadful
" hurricane, which again laid waſte the leeward pariſhes, and completed
" the tragedy. We decline to enlarge on the conſequences which
" followed, leſt we appear to exaggerate. But having endeavoured to
" compute, with as much accuracy as the ſubject will admit, the number
" of our ſlaves, whoſe deſtruction may be fairly attributed to theſe calami-
" ties, and the unfortunate meaſure of interdicting foreign ſupplies, and
" for this purpoſe, compared the imports and exports of negroes for the
" laſt ſeven years, with thoſe of ſeven years preceding, we heſitate not af-
" ter every allowance for adventitious cauſes, to fix the whole at 15,000.
" This number, we firmly believe, to have periſhed of famine or of diſeaſes
" contracted by ſcanty and unhwoleſome diet, between the latter end of
" 1780, and the beginning of 1787."

Obſervations.—Yet to ſhew the inconſiſtency of mankind, and how very differently ſome perſons here feel when the evil is at their own door, or when it befalls their remote fellow ſubjects in the colonies, we cannot but obſerve that whenever a dearth of bread has happened in this country, (which is, or uſed to be, one of the granaries of Europe) all its ports are inſtantly thrown open for the reception of a ſupply, from all parts of the world, from whence a ſupply can come. But what was the conduct towards the ſugar iſlands? Their ports were cloſely ſhut, and even vigilantly blockaded, as if they had been public enemies; that not a ſingle ounce of proviſion, of any ſort, might be conveyed to them; although many thouſands of miſerable negroes, whoſe harveſts were known to be entirely deſtroyed by the ſeverity of the weather, were periſhing under the complicated horrors of famine and diſeaſe!

No

No fewer than 15000 of them are ſaid to have fallen a ſacrifice in Jamaica, to this inhuman policy; at leaſt 8000 in Antigua!—23000 in theſe two iſlands only, were for ever loſt to their proprietors; whoſe fortunes were thus impaired to the amount of 120,000l. ſterling! Who is there, laying his hand upon his heart, who will not readily confeſs, that to have prevented this dreadful carnage, would have been a laudable effort of humanity? But to continue the interdiction as it now is, not only indicates a want of humanity, but may again produce the ſame, if not a more deplorable havock. If the Governors and their Council had been entruſted with diſcretionary powers, of admitting free importations of proviſion, whenever the extreme diſtreſſes of the inhabitants ſhould require, much good would have reſulted, as well to the mother country, as the colonies, from ſuch a relaxation;—23000 cultivators of the ſoil might then have ſurvived, to furniſh as many tons per annum, of valuable products, who by this pertinacious exertion of controul over the lives and properties of Engliſhmen in the Weſt Indies, are for ever loſt.

That cruel law reſtricts the Governors from the power of any indulgence, except when proviſions riſe 50 per cent. above the common rate; an extremity, that eventually may prove fatal before ſupplies can be procured.

The admiſſion of ſmall veſſels, under 90 tons, with rice, India corn, ſalt fiſh, and lumber, for ſix months after every ſtorm, or at all times, and to take rum in exchange for them, could never materially interfere with Britiſh navigation, and would be of infinite ſervice. For, the moment a hurricane is known to have happened, ſupplies would iſſue from all parts.

At preſent, the French have the ſole benefit of this trade; the ſame quantity and ſpecies of lumber, which ſells in Martinico and St. Lucia, at 3l. 10s. to 4l. 10s. per m. is ſold at St. Vincent and Dominica, and within nine hour's ſail of the French iſlands, for 13l. to 16l. 10s.; and the rum is unſaleable in the Britiſh iſlands. To thoſe regulations above-mentioned, and

other

other diſcouragements is to be imputed; the loſs of trade and depopulated ſtate of the towns in the Windward and Leeward Iſlands. That of Dominica is remarkable; — from 3350 whites in 1773, to 1236 in 1788; — the loſs is 2114—the number being now 537 fewer than on firſt taking poſſeſſion of the iſland in 1763. A conſiderable emigration has recently happened of ſeveral of his Majeſty's Council, and other reſpectable people of property, from Grenada, Dominica, and the Leeward Iſlands, to Trinidada. The encouragement held forth is very great, as may appear by the following, extracted from the Spaniſh edict, inviting people thither of all nations, in a ſtate of peace with his Catholic Majeſty:

Article 1ſt. Reſpects religion; and, by late accounts, ſeems to be diſpenſed with.

2d. That foreigners are to take an oath of allegiance and fidelity, before the Governor, by which they engage to obſerve the laws and ordinances of the Indies to which the Spaniards are ſubject; and become intitled to grants of land, gratis, in perpetuity.

3d. That each white perſon of either ſex, ſhall be granted four fanegas and 2-7ths, (which is equal to ten quarries of French meaſure, or thirty-five acres of Engliſh meaſure); and half as much for every negro, or mulatto ſlave.

4th. That free negroes and mulattos ſhall be entitled to half as much, as above is to be granted to the whites.

5th. That after five years reſidence, if they oblige themſelves to continue there, they ſhall have all the rights and privileges of naturalization granted to them and their children, to entitle them to be admitted to honorary emplyments of the republic, and of the militia.

6th. No capitation or perſonal tribute, ſhall be laid on the whites; they ſhall only be liable to pay one piece of eight yearly for each ſlave; and that to commence only ten years after their eſtabliſhment; and this tax ſhall never be encreaſed.

7th. That Spaniſh or foreign inhabitants, ſhall be at liberty, during the firſt five years, to return to their reſpective native countries, or former place of abode; and be permitted to carry with them all ſuch property as they brought to the iſland, free of duty; but on the encreaſe during that time, they will be liable to a duty of 10 per cent.; and the land of ſuch perſon who voluntarily quits, ſhall devolve to the King, to be given to others.

8th. That old and new inhabitants, that die upon the iſland without apparent heirs, ſhall have the power of bequeathing their fortunes to their relations and friends, wherever they may be. And if their ſucceſſors chuſe to ſettle in the iſland, they ſhall enjoy the privileges granted to their conſtituents; but if they prefer carrying away the inheritance, they may do ſo, paying 15 per cent. duties, if the teſtator has been five years eſtabliſhed; but if before that period, they ſhall only pay 10 per cent. Thoſe that die inteſtate, their fathers, brothers, or relations, ſhall inherit, even ſhould they reſide in foreign countries, provided they will ſettle in the iſland; otherwiſe, they ſhall be permitted to ſell agreeable to the foregoing two articles.

9th. The inhabitants may bequeath the landed property to their children, &c.

10th. That any inhabitant, on aſking leave of the Governor, ſhall be entitled to go to Spain, or any other province of the Indies, or other country, except to an enemy's country.

11th. Exemption for ten years from the payment of tythes on the product of land, afterwards ſubject to pay 5 per cent.

12th. Exempt for ten years, from Royal duties, but afterwards to pay only 5 per cent.; but if ſhipped on Spaniſh bottoms to any port in Spain, to be exempt from any duty on exportation.

13th. To keep arms, to keep in awe the ſlaves, and oppoſe invaders. The King declares this obligation ſhall not comprehend them in the militia.

14th. The ſhips or veſſels brought by ſettlers, ſhall be regiſtered, and made Spaniſh for a certain time, exempt from alien and qualifying duties. And thoſe who chuſe to build veſſels, may cut timber; except what is reſerved for the navy.

15th. The trade and importation of negroes, ſhall be free of duty for ten years, &c.

16th. To go with the Governor's leave, to the iſlands in friendſhip, or neutral iſlands, to look for ſlaves; leave to take produce, effects, or any other property, to pay for them.

17th. Trade between the inhabitants and Spain, free of duties for ten years; never to be encumbered with other taxes, than are paid on the products of the reſt of the Spaniſh Weſt Indies.

18th. Goods and merchandize, fruits and liquors, ſent from Spain to that iſland, to be free of duties.

19th. Veſſels belonging to the inhabitants, or to the ſubjects of Spain, may make voyages to the ſaid iſland from he ports of France, and return to them

them again with the fruits and productions of the iſland, excepting caſh, paying 5 per cent.

20th. Upon any urgent neceſſity, the Governor to give leave to have recourſe to the French iſlands, on the ſame condition of 5 per cent.

21ſt. In order to furniſh the new inhabitants amply with neceſſaries for ſubſiſtence, induſtry, and agriculture, orders are given to the Commanders of Carracca provinces, for the purpoſe of conveying to the iſland, ſuch quantity of horned cattle, mules, and horſes, as may be deemed neceſſary, at the charge of the King's revenues; and to be given at firſt coſt to the inhabitants, until they can raiſe ſufficient for their purpoſes.

22d. A like proviſion for a ſufficient quantity of flour, for ten years; and in caſe of ſcarcity, the Governor to give permiſſion to the inhabitants to go to foreign iſlands, and carry effects to purchaſe it, paying 5 per cent.

23d. All inſtruments and utenſils neceſſary for the old and new inhabitants, to be ſent in like manner at the King's expence, from Biſcay and other ports of Spain, for the ſpace of ten years, to be given at firſt coſt; afterwards they muſt ſupply themſelves, and if in want of them, they ſhall be permitted to ſend to the foreign iſlands for them, the ſame as for flour.

24th. The King will appoint, and pay the Clergy.

25th. The old and new inhabitants to lay before the King, through the Governor, the regulations they ſhall think proper to propoſe for the government of the ſlaves.

26th. To guard againſt the plague of ants.

27th.

27th. When the ſugar crops are conſiderable, leave to erect refining houſes, with all the privileges and exemptions from duties of natural born ſubjects. Likewiſe liberty to erect a Council Board in ſaid iſland, for the advancement and protection of its agriculture, navigation, and commerce, with directions to the Governor and other Judges, to be kind, equitable, and give them ſpeedy adminiſtration of juſtice; and not to trouble or injure them in any wiſe whatever, under pain of the Royal diſpleaſure.

28th. Laſtly, Granted to the new and old inhabitants, when they have motives worthy of Royal conſideration, to ſend their remonſtrances to the King, through the means of the Governor, and the Miniſter for diſpatch of Indian affairs.—And in caſe the buſineſs be of ſuch a nature, as to require that a perſon ſhall be ſent to ſolicit it, they ſhall aſk and have the King's leave for it, if he thinks it juſt. That theſe regulations may take place, the King diſpenſes with all laws or cuſtoms contradictory to them, and commands his Council of the Indies, Chancellors, Courts of Juſtice, Officers, &c. &c. to keep, comply with, and execute the ſame. Given at Fort Lorenza, &c.

Obſervations.—Thoſe planters who carried 100 negroes to Trinidada, had a gratuitous grant of 1750 acres of land, excluſive of 35 acres for every white perſon he carried there.

The iſland of Trinidada is out of the track of, and free from hurricanes. It ſeems an aſylum opened by Providence, for the reception of thoſe who may be driven thither by poverty and oppreſſion.

Integrity alone reſtrains many from emigration, as they could not retire with juſtice to their creditors in Great Britain. But if the Slave Trade is aboliſhed, and the interdiction of ſmall American veſſels, bartering negro

 proviſions

provifions and lumber for rum be continued, the iſlands will be deſerted, the land will remain for the payment of debts, and the inhabitants, for ſelf-preſervation, will proceed with their negroes where their labours will be rewarded. A moment's reflection raiſes indignation at the thought, that in iſlands where ſcarce a year paſſes without a hurricane, and ſometimes two or more in the ſame year; where *ants*, *borers*, and various other cauſes, abound to produce famine; a mother country ſhould, on the narrow policy of excluding ſmall foreign veſſels, preclude the inhabitants from any chance of ſaving their lives.

The lives already loſt through this cauſe, demand an immediate repeal of that law which denies the means of exiſtence to half a million of human beings.

The poor planters have no veſſels*: how are they to procure lumber? — What is to be done with the rum? — It remains on their hands; lumber is ſmuggled to them in ſmall uncertain quantities, at 2 or 300 per cent. more than the French pay for it. Shameful policy! It is the proſperity alone of the planter, that can benefit this country. — His wealth ultimately ſettles in Great Britain, though earned abroad.

A little attention to the preceding ſtatement of accounts, and to the condition of the Weſt Indies, will enable the Reader to form ſome judgment of the dreadful conſequences to Great Britain and the Weſt Indies, that will attend the dereliction of the Slave Trade.

His own reflections will ſuggeſt to him, African traders, ſhips, ſeamen, and manufacturers, forced into the ſervice of France and Spain; colonies alienated; merchants bankrupts; revenue reduced; national finances diminiſhed; land tax doubled; and, by whom? Why truly, by the beſt

* This applies to every iſland but Grenada.

friends

friends to the enemies of this country, to the Bourbon Family, and Dutch. He will reflect, how much more dangerous internal than external foes.

That after a ſucceſsful conteſt of 237 years, the grand object of it, which all the force and fury of war could not deprive us of, is now to be wreſted from the nation by thoſe who ought to guard its minuteſt intereſt, without any equivalent to compenſate for ſuch conceſſions.

When the preſent *Mania* abates, the public will judge of the fitneſs of men to conduct the concerns of a great, a powerful, and wiſe nation, who would ſacrifice its moſt important intereſt, and rob 58,000 of our fellow ſubjects of the means of exiſtence, to humour the cant of hypocrites, and the folly of projectors; or to ſerve a temporary, ſelfiſh, political purpoſe, which ſooner or later will diſgrace all its abetters.

The landholders of this kingdom, ought not to ſhut their eyes towards the miſchiefs which are now impending upon them. The loſs of upwards of 2,000,000l. per annum; and its conſequential decreaſe annually below that ſum, beſides the certain demands on the juſtice of the nation, for 70,000,000l. ought to be with them matters of very ſerious conſideration. A ſtop of circulation, amounting to upwards of ten millions ſterling, per annum, ought exceedingly to alarm every good ſubject. They ſhould think, revolve in their minds the probable danger of ſtill more fatal conſequences in the end, as well as that of driving, by injurious treatment, the few remaining coloniſts to a ſtate of deſperation.

The world, perhaps, never witneſſed a more extraordinary inſtance than the preſent, of inconſiſtency of character, or the love of one's country, and regard to its intereſt, being ſo completely extinguiſhed by the luſt of popularity and power.

Let

Let thoſe to whom this applies ſedately reflect, that from a ſmaller ember than the preſent, ſprung the blaze of impolicy by which Thirteen Provinces, were irreclaimably loſt.

I leave it now to every honeſt and conſiderate man in Great Britain, who is at preſent unwarped by prejudice and paſſion, to put theſe ſtubborn facts and figures which I have diſplayed before him, in competition with all the oratory and all the merits of Mr. W— and his followers, however tranſcendant they may be; and then let him calmly decide, not without a fair and candid examination of evidence on one ſide, as well as the other, whether he recollects that there ever was propounded to this nation, any meaſure ſo raſh and puerile; ſo enormouſly unjuſt and abſurd; ſo advantageous to foreign powers, particularly France; and ſo hoſtile and miſchievous to our nation and its colonies, as that of the *Abolition of the Britiſh Trade with Africa.*

APPENDIX.

A Reſpectable French author (anno 1720,) ſays, " Slaves being one " part of their riches, and properly a commodity in this country as " they were in ancient times at *Tyre, (Ezekiel*, ch. xxvii. v. 13—*Javan, Tubal*, " *and Meſhech, were thy merchants ; they traded in the* perſons of men.) The " ſlaves are moſtly people taken in war; ſome are ſold by their own re- " lations, like the *Chineſe*, who ſell their ſons and daughters when they " pleaſe, and practiſe it frequently.

" The *Sclavonians* had the ſame cuſtom, and were alſo free to kill them. " The *Perſians* kept them as *ſlaves, (Vide Navarit, p.* 51.) ſome through " extreme want; alſo inſolvent debtors, and ſuch as are condemned to fines " they cannot pay, ſell themſelves for ſlaves; but the much greater num- " ber are taken in war. Theſe ſlaves are ſeverely and barbarouſly treated " by their African maſters, who ſubſiſt them poorly, and beat them inhu- " manly, as may be ſeen by the *ſcabs* and *wounds* on the bodies of thoſe " who are ſold to us. When dead, they never bury them, but caſt out " the bodies to be devoured by birds or beaſts of prey.

" This barbarous uſage makes it appear, that the fate of thoſe ſent to " *America*, is much preferable to that of thoſe who remain in their native " country; for on board of ſhip all poſſible care is taken to preſerve and " ſubſiſt them for the intereſt of the owners; and when ſold in *America*, " the ſame motive ought to prevail with their maſters to uſe them well—

" that they may live the longer, and do them more ſervice. The duty to
" inſtruct them in Chriſtianity has been declared by two ſynods of the Pro-
" teſtant churches of France, the one held at *Rouen*, the other at *Allencon*,
" in 1637, upon queſtions put in thoſe aſſemblies by over-ſcrupulous per-
" ſons, who thought it unlawful that many proteſtant merchants ſhould
" continue that traffick, as being inconſiſtent with *Chriſtian charity*. The
" ſynod, after long diſcuſſion, decreed as follows:—" Though *ſlavery*, as it
" has been always acknowledged to be of the right of nations, *is not con-*
" *demned by the word of God*, and has not been aboliſhed in moſt parts of
" *Europe*, by the manifeſtation of the goſpel, but only by a contrary prac-
" tice, inſenſibly introduced; nevertheleſs, ſince ſeveral merchants trading
" on the coaſt of Africa, and the Indies where that traffick is permitted,
" acquire ſlaves of the Barbarians either in exchange, or for money, the
" poſſeſſion of whom they tranſmit to others by formal ſales or exchange.
" this aſſembly, confirming the *rule* on that ſubject, made in *Normandy*, ex-
" horts them not to *abuſe* that liberty contrary to Chriſtian charity and
" not to diſpoſe of thoſe poor infidels but to ſuch Chriſtians as will uſe
" them with humanity, and, above all, will take care to inſtruct them in
" the true religion.

" Many ignorant, yet well-meaning, people imagine that the ceremony
" of baptiſm confers freedom to ſlaves.

" I have (ſays Barbot) in this point had the opinion of very learned
" Engliſh and French divines, alledging one inſtance of the like caſe in
" *Oneſimus*, a Chriſtian ſlave, in whoſe behalf *St. Paul* writes to *Philimore*,
" his maſter, in ſo affectionate a manner, (Vide his epiſtle) by all which it is
" apparent, that in thoſe times the primitive Chriſtians had many *ſlaves*
" among them, who were alſo Chriſtians.

" The *Iſraelites* had the power of life and death over their ſlaves, and that
" right was then common to all nations; for captivity was the right of war;

" when

" when inſtead of killing the enemies. it was judged more adviſeable to ſave
" their lives, and make uſe of their ſervice. Not to mention the ineſtima-
" ble advantage of becoming Chriſtians, and ſaving their ſouls, if they make
" a true uſe of their condition; whereof ſome inſtances might be given,
" though it muſt be owned, they are very hard to be brought to a true
" notion of the Chriſtian religion, and much leſs to be prevailed on, to live
" up to its holy rules; being naturally very ſtupid and ſenſual, and ſo apt
" to continue till their end, without the leaſt concern for a future ſtate of
" eternal bliſs or miſery, according as they have lived in this world.

" It was then ſuppoſed, that the conqueror always reſerved to himſelf
" the right of taking their lives, if they became unworthy of his mercy;
" that he acquired the ſame right over the children of ſlaves, ſince they
" could never have been born, had not he preſerved the father; and that
" he transferred that right in diſpoſing of his ſlave to the purchaſer.

" This is the foundation of the abſolute authority of the maſters, and it
" was very rare that they would abuſe it; their own intereſt obliging
" them to preſerve their ſlaves, which were a part of their wealth. This is
" the reaſon in the law of God, for not puniſhing him who had beaten his
" ſlave ſo unmercifully, that he died in a few days after. '*Tis his money,*' ſays
" the law, to ſhew that the loſs of ſervice was a ſufficient puniſhment; and it
" might be preſumed in that caſe, the maſter only intended to correct him.

" But if the ſlave actually died UNDER the blows, it was an inducement
" to believe, that the maſter's deſign was to *kill*, and therefore the law de-
" clared him *guilty*; wherein it was more merciful than the laws of other
" nations.

" The *Romans*, for above fifty years, had the right of putting their ſlaves
" to death; of laying their debtors in irons for non-payment of their
" debts; and of ſelling their own children three ſeveral times ſucceſſively,

" before

" before they were out of their power. All this was purſuant to the " *Twelve tables* which they brought from *Greece*, about the time when the " *Jews* were again re-eſtabliſhing themſelves after their return from cap- " tivity about 1000 years after the time of *Moſes**.

The opinion of the venerable " Society for Propagating the Goſpel in " Foreign Parts," being called for, reſpecting the lawfulneſs of purchaſing and keeping negro ſlaves, in order to frame an anſwer to a letter received from Mr. *Anthony Benezet*, of Philidelphia, dated *February* 6th, 1768. The Reverend Doctor Burton, Secretary to the Society, by their direction, after expreſſing their eſteem for Mr. *Benezet*, on account of the tenderneſs and humanity he had expreſſed for the negro ſlaves, adds, " That the So- " ciety cannot condemn the practice of keeping ſlaves as unlawful, finding " the contrary very plainly implied in the precepts, given by the Apoſtles, " both to maſters, and ſervants; which laſt, were then, for the moſt part, " *ſlaves*. And that if the doctrine of the *unlawfulneſs of ſlavery* ſhould be " taught in our colonies, the Society apprehended that the maſters, inſtead " of being convinced of it, will grow more ſuſpicious, and cruel, and much " more unwilling to let their ſlaves learn Chriſtianity; and that the poor " creatures themſelves, if they come to look on this doctrine as true, will be " ſo ſtrongly tempted to rebel againſt their maſters, that the moſt dreadful " conſequences to both will be likely to follow; and therefore, though the " Society was fully ſatisfied that his intention in this matter, was perfectly " good, yet they moſt earneſtly entreated him not to go farther in publiſh- " ing his *notions*; but rather, to *retract them*, if he ſhould ſee cauſe, which " they hoped he would on farther conſideration †."

The liberty is taken to add a few obſervations upon the 12th propoſition of Mr. W. which ſeems to be the foundation of the intended bill, is

* Barbot (272) Churchill's Voyages, Vol. V.

† See Mr. Knox's Pamphlet on this ſubject, lately re-publiſhed by *Debrett*.

" That

" That the accounts from the Leeward Iſlands, and from Dominica, Gre-
" nada, and St. Vincent's, do not furniſh ſufficient grounds for comparing
" the ſtate of population in the ſaid iſlands at different periods, with the
" number of ſlaves which have been from time to time imported into the
" ſaid iſlands, and exported therefrom. But that from the evidence that has
" been received reſpecting the preſent ſtate of thoſe iſlands, as well as
" Jamaica and Barbadoes; and from a conſideration of the means of obvi-
" ating the cauſes which have hitherto operated to impede the natural
" encreaſe, and of leſſening manual labour, without diminiſhing the profit
" of the planter, it appears that no conſiderable or permanent inconve-
" nience would reſult from diſcontinuing the further importation of African
" ſlaves."

Now it is inſiſted, that the accounts from Jamaica, Dominica, Antigua, and Grenada, do furniſh ſufficient grounds to prove a great decreaſe in the number of ſlaves in the ſaid iſlands; eſpecially during the time that Grenada and Dominica were under French government, when the importation of ſlaves had ceaſed; and that the iſlands are enabled to continue their number of ſlaves reſpectively, chiefly by the means of importation from Africa, without which their number muſt preſently be greatly diminiſhed, as appears ſufficiently from the foregoing ſtatements reſpecting population; and alſo by the concurrent teſtimonies of the Governors, and other reſpectable perſons.

Is it not obvious to common ſenſe, that iſlands moſtly in wood will remain ſo, if proper people are not imported to clear and plant them? Can any perſon doubt that but little is cleared of Dominica and St. Vincent, and that great tracts remain in that ſtate in Grenada and Jamaica? If doubted, hundreds of men of character are ready to prove it at the Bar of the Houſe.

" That from the evidence that has been received, reſpecting the preſent
" ſtate of theſe iſlands, as well as of Jamaica and Barbadoes, and from a con-
" ſideration of the means of obviating the cauſes, which have hitherto ope-

" rated

" rated to impede the natural encreaſe, and of leſſening manual labour
" without diminiſhing the profit of the planter, it appears that no conſi-
" derable or permanent inconvenience would reſult from diſcontinuing the
" further importation of African ſlaves."

The cauſes which impede national increaſe are in the 9th Propoſition ſtated to be,

1ſt. The inequality of the ſexes imported from Africa! Will abolition remedy this, and provide wives for the men? No. The direct contrary is certain.

2d. " The diſſoluteneſs of manners among the ſlaves, the want of
" proper regulations for the encouragement of marriages, and of rearing
" children." Will abolition make the diſſolute moral? Will it make thoſe content with one man, whoſe wanton deſires are hardly allayed by many; and where each of the many have, and will have, an equal claim to the indulgence of nature? No. Abolition will not create females; nor will it make better nurſes, or prevent the locked jaw from deſtroying infants.

3d. " The diſeaſes which affect, and which are prevalent among them, and
" which are in ſome inſtances attributed to too ſevere labour, or rigorous
" treatment, and in others to inſufficient and improper food."

If no human wiſdom has yet in Great Britain been able to prevent diſeaſes and death, it is hardly to be expected elſewhere.

That diſeaſes may happen from too ſevere labour, would appear moſt ſtriking from a view of the coal-heavers and labourers of this country, where the employers have no feeling for the health of thoſe they employ; but the contrary is the fact.—In the Weſt Indies men are guided by their own intereſt; and the Weſt Indian, if other motives were wanting, muſt

reſtrain

reſtrain his negroes from injuring themſelves by too ſevere labour, and prevent rigorous treatment; as either of theſe cauſes would render them incapable of much more ſervice.

As to inſufficient or improper food, if that has at any time been true, it muſt be *ſince* the prohibition of ſupplies from America in the old plentiful mode commenced; for prior to that period no ſuch inſufficiency, I believe, has been complained of. Great Britain alone has to anſwer this charge, in cutting off from the iſlands, thoſe ample and accuſtomed ſupplies from America. Every planter of common ſenſe well knows, and feels it is his intereſt to ſee that his labourers have ſufficient and wholeſome food, without which they could not be able to perform their labour.

The planter, however, has it not in his power to prevent deſtructive ſtorms that deſtroy the fruits of the earth, nor to avert the calamity of inſects, equally fatal. All he can do in ſuch caſes, is to ſhare what he has among his people; and ſuffer, with them, the deſtiny impoſed by the regulating laws of Great Britain.

Abolition of the Slave Trade, however, applies not as any remedy to this complaint.

How the ſupernumerary males are to be made to breed without females; how the demand for manual labour is to be leſſened, is yet to be diſcovered. Among the planters, there are many liberal, ingenious men, of great diſcernment and experience, who have tried many experiments for the leſſening the labour of the negroes; yet would have no objection to try others, if practicable; and who would be glad to have ſuch pointed out to them by the perſons qualified to give the information.

But there is certainly nothing ſet forth in any part of the proceedings which have been ſubmitted to Parliament, that can juſtify the concluſion

ſtated

ſtated in the cloſe of Mr. Wilberforce's laſt propoſition. His premiſes being falſe, the inferences drawn from them, however artfully worded, muſt fall to the ground. And although he affects to promiſe to this nation, that no conſiderable or permanent inconvenience can reſult to the planter from a diſcontinuance of the Slave Trade, yet I muſt beg to aſſure that Gentleman, that the planters, the merchants, and every claſs of people who are not only intereſted, but thoroughly experienced in the Weſt India trade, are univerſally and decidedly of opinion, that ſuch a meaſure will bring ſomething more than inconvenience—It will bring certain and irretrievable ruin upon them in the courſe of a very few years.

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